

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00984 050604Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SSC-01 PC-01 AID-05 /070 W

----- 055189

R 050522Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7319

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0984

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, US, MA

SUBJECT: MALAGASY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. TANANARIVE 0934; B. TANANARIVE 0852

SUMMARY: RESTIVENESS OF MALAGASY POLITICAL SCENE HAS INTENSIFIED IN PAST FEW DAYS AMID DISQUIETUDE GENERATED BY INCREASING PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH CONDUCT OF TRIAL OF ALLEGED ASSASSINS AND GROWING SPECULATION THAT COMMANDER RATSIRAKA MAY SOON REPLACE GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. MILITARY TRIBUNAL'S CONDUCT OF TRIAL OF DEFENDENTS ACCUSED OF FOMENTING REBELLION AND KILLING COLONEL RATSIMANDRAVA IS INCREASINGLY SUBJECT OF ABUSE BY INFORMED MALAGASY. IN ADDITION TO HAVING SUFFERED RESIGNATION OF SENIOR JUDGE (SEE REF A) WHEN TRIAL NEARLY OVER, TRIBUNAL HAS DELAYED UNTIL NOW PRESENTATION OF OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE, E.G. MEDICAL REPORTS, WHICH HAS BELATEDLY REVEALED GAPS IN INVESTIGATION AND RAISED NEW QUESTIONS. ALSO, TRIBUNAL HAS ALREADY GRANTED AMNESTY TO LARGE NUMBER OF DEFENDENTS, DESPITE FACT TRIAL NOT COMPLETED. NEW SUSPICIONS HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY CONTROVERSY CAUSED BY REFUSAL OF TWO MILITARY DIRECTORY MEMBERS TO TESTIFY ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS. LOCAL LAWYERS FOLLOWING TRIAL SEE LITTLE LEGAL BASIS FOR CONVICTION OF DEFENDENTS BASED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 00984 050604Z

ON EVIDENCE PRESENTED SO FAR. WHILE TRIAL HAS CONSISTENTLY

POSED DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR GOMR, THOSE PROBLEMS NOW  
DECIDEDLY WORSE.

2. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER COMMANDER DIDIER RATSIRAKA CONTINUES  
TO COMMAND PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION, LARGELY DUE TO HIS  
OWN BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORTS. RATSIRAKA FOLLOWERS HAVE  
PRESSED VARIOUS JOURNALISTS TO CARRY ITEMS FAVORABLE TO  
RATSIRAKA. FOR EXAMPLE, MAD MATIN ON JUNE 4 CARRIED FRONT-  
PAGE PHOTO OF RATSIRAKA TAKEN TWO YEARS AGO SIGNING AGREEMENT  
WITH FRENCH ON DEPARTURE OF FRENCH MILITARY. MORE CURRENTLY,  
FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE WAS ALSO ACCORDED RATSIRAKA'S RETURN  
FROM PARIS ON MAY 27 WHEN HE WAS MET BY AN UNUSUALLY  
HEAVY SECURITY ESCORT AT AIRPORT WHICH GENERATED CONSIDERABLE  
SPECULATION CONCERNING HIS GROWING IMPORTANCE. ALSO  
WELL-PUBLICIZED WERE CALLS ON RATSIRAKA BY FRENCH AND NORTH  
KOREAN AMBASSADORS. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B, EMBASSY BELIEVES  
GENERAL ANDRIAMHAZO WILLING TO STEP ASIDE IN FAVOR OF RATSIRAKA  
AND LATTER APPEARS TO BE MAKING HIS PREPARATIONS TO TAKE  
OVER GOVERNMENT WITH BROAD-BASED SUPPORT AND WITHOUT VIOLENCE.  
RATSIRAKA APPEARS TO BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING SPECULATION  
ABOUT HIS TAKING POWER IN ORDER TO DAMPEN ANY SHOCK WHEN  
IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS. UNLIKE FRENCH OBSERVERS, HOWEVER,  
EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SOME OPPOSITION TO IMMEDIATE RATSIRAKA  
TAKEOVER STILL EXISTS IN MILITARY DIRECTORY, BUT EMBASSY  
DOES AGREE WITH FRENCH THAT RATSIRAKA COULD BECOME NEW  
HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. MORE DETAILED POLITICAL EVALUATION WILL BE FORWARDED BY  
AIRGRAM IN NEXT CLASSIFIED POUCH.  
ELFERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, COURTS MARTIAL, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TANANA00984  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750196-0575  
**From:** TANANARIVE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750676/aaaacrku.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TANANARIVE 0934, 75 TANANARIVE 0852  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MALAGASY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, PINT, US, MA, (RAMAROLAHY, PHILIBERT), (RATSIMANDRAVA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006